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EPA-REGION 10

U.S. EPA
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I think it's ridiculous to dig up contaminants if the Willamette River is curing itself naturally. Why would the EPA spend billions of dollars to cleanup a river? Because it's not their dollars, that's why. We need to fix our roads; our streets are messed up because the tax money collected for those repairs can't be found. Before I pay for another government project, I'll move out of the state because I'm sick and tired of the way things are being done my home town. I was in the printing business for 45 1/2 years and was never unemployed until I retired, but my fixed income can't handle more taxes for unnecessary spending.

I'm very skeptical about anything the government does because it gets money for one thing, but uses it for something else. We're still dumping sewage into the river after spending millions of dollars on the sewer system. Now, I'm being taxed to drive up and down my street after that proposal supposedly failed! Apparently, the EPA wants to do the same under the guise of cleaning the river.

Why would the agency risk disrupting an area that thrives on recreational activities to dredge a river that's already restoring itself? It's definitely not to do what's best for the city of Portland. With the ongoing dredging and hold-ups, the restaurants near the harbor and on the river would end up in trouble. We'd lose the restaurants, and then we'd lose those tax dollars and those jobs. Who wants to go eat near a construction site dredging up toxins? The less money we have coming in, the less money we have to spend on things we need. Our first responders would immediately be strapped, and they already have trouble getting proper funding.

In my opinion, there's no accountability for what the agency does. Since it is not required by law to be held accountable for these decisions, the EPA continues to overlook a plan that would have input from local residents and move full steam ahead with its costlier proposal. There are alternative approaches if the true goal is to remove hazardous substances from the river. Disrupting the waterfront will interfere with port activities and tourism, which will hurt our economy.

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